

## Snake River Birds of Prey

National Conservation Area



## Bruneau Planning Area

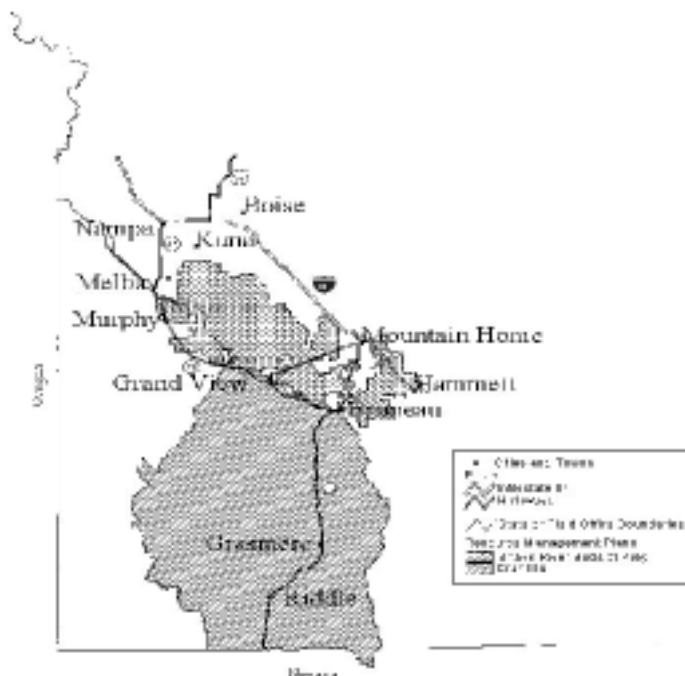
# RMPNews

November 2001

## What is an RMP?

Resource Management Plans (RMP's) are the basic land use document used by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In general they guide land use decisions and management actions on public lands for 20 years or more. RMP level decisions establish goals and objectives (i.e., desired future conditions), the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives, and parameters for resource use on BLM lands. RMP's identify lands that are open or available for certain uses, including any applicable restrictions, and lands that are closed to certain uses. RMP decisions ordinarily are made on a broad scale and customarily guide subsequent site-specific implementation decisions. RMP level decisions may have broad implications for those who manage adjacent lands or resources.

The BLM's Lower Snake River District is undertaking two new Resource Management Plans: the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA) and the Bruneau Planning Area. The Birds of Prey NCA is located in southwest Idaho in Ada, Canyon, Elmore and Owyhee Counties, within a 30 minute drive of Boise. It encompasses approximately 485,000 acres, or 757 square miles of public land, with 81 miles along the Snake River. The Bruneau Planning area is also located in SW Idaho (in Owyhee County and a small portion of Elko County Nevada) and covers approximately 1.8 million acres. Of this area, 1.4 million acres are administered by BLM and 145,000 acres are included in the Duck Valley Native American Indian Reservation.



## What issues are typically addressed during the RMP process?

The first step in the RMP process is the identification and formulation of management issues, which will be used as the foundation for the entire process. Examples of issues include:

- how will cultural resources, special status and endangered species be protected?
- how will livestock grazing be managed?
- how will recreation, transportation and OHV uses be managed to meet public demand?
- how will riparian and wetland habitats be managed?
- how will special designations be made i.e, Areas of Critical Environment Concern?
- how will wildlife habitat be protected or restored?

## How are issues identified and alternatives developed?

The public is encouraged to participate in the four step process leading to publication of the RMP/EIS.

### **Step 1** **Scoping and Issue** **Identifications** **Nov-Dec 2001**

Land use issues and concerns that need to be resolved are identified through this process. Issues may stem from new information or changed circumstances, the need to address environmental concerns, or a need to reassess the appropriate mix of allowable uses. Resource protection that requires special designations begins at this point.

### **Step 2** **Assess Information and** **Identify Where Issues can be** **Combined and Prioritized** **Dec 2001 - Jan 2002**

Existing information can be directly incorporated into the, assessment process, which involves synthesizing, analyzing, and interpreting data for a defined purpose. Assessment differs from inventory and monitoring, which are data collection activities. Planning-related assessments generally address four key concepts: status, trend, risk, and opportunity. These four concepts will be used to identify outcomes that will address the issues

### **Step 3** **Alternative Development** **2002**

A range of desired outcomes, representing different levels or degrees of protection and use may be evaluated as different alternatives to determine which combination best meets the present and future needs of the American people and best assures the long-term health of the land and its resources.

### **Step 4** **Analysis of Alternatives and** **Selection of the Plan**

The alternative that best resolves the issues pertinent to the planning effort, meets statutory requirements, and best achieves BLM's goals and policies is identified as the preferred alternative or proposed plan. Following public review, consistency determinations, and the public protest process, the approved plan and the rationale for its selection are identified.

## How Can I be Involved?

---

The BLM will use a collaborative approach for both plans, which will provide the public, elected officials and agencies with opportunities in preparing the plans. In addition to this collaboration, consultation with American Indians will take place. This differs from the usual approach of simply seeking public comment on team-developed proposals. The goal of the public participation effort will be to increase opportunities for people to contribute to the development of the plan. Many new approaches will be used in encouraging public input, participation, and a sense of ownership of the plan. In addition to structured meetings and workshops, the BLM will provide various opportunities for participation and comment, including individual and group interviews, a variety of informal meetings, and access to an RMP web site (see below). In addition, the BLM welcomes written comments by regular mail.

To facilitate a more collaborative public involvement process, the BLM has acquired the assistance of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution. The Institute serves as an impartial, non-partisan agency to assist in resolving environmental, natural resource, and public land use issues. They will provide professional expertise, services, and resources to all parties involved in issue resolution. The Institute helps parties determine whether collaborative problem solving is appropriate for specific environmental conflicts, how and when to bring all the parties to the table, and whether a third-party facilitator or mediator might be helpful in assisting the parties in their efforts to reach consensus or to resolve the issue.

## What Happens Next?

---

The BLM Interdisciplinary Team and the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution are ready to begin the scoping meetings. During the meetings, you will be given the opportunity to meet with resource specialists in an informal setting to help identify issues and concerns. Once the issues and concerns have been analyzed and grouped, workshops will be held to review and finalize the issues to be analyzed in the EIS.

Scoping meetings will be held in the following locations from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Attendees are encouraged to visit with resource specialists and BLM managers following a general briefing on the planning process.

**November 27**, Tuesday, Kuna High School, 1360 Boise St., Kuna, ID

**November 28**, Wednesday, BLM-LSRD Conference Room, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID

**December 3**, Monday, Rim Rock Jr./Sr. High School, Hwy 78, 9-10 miles west of Bruneau, ID

**December 11**, Tuesday, Caldwell Court House, 1115 Albany St., Caldwell, ID

***(Note: Location has changed from the Courthouse to the Elections Office at 1102 E. Chicago St. at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and Chicago)***

**December 13**, Thursday, Mountain Home Elks Lodge, 325 South 3<sup>rd</sup> West, Mountain Home, ID

If you are unable to attend the scoping meetings please feel free to submit comments through our web page at <http://www.id.blm.gov/planning> or by writing Mike O'Donnell at 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705. Comments for the scoping portion of the RMP development received prior to January 31, 2002 will be used in developing the issues to be addressed in the EIS. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practical.

Lower Snake River District  
Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705



Lower Snake River District  
Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705

Tape here

Lower Snake River District  
Bureau of Land Management  
3948 Development Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83705



***If you would like to be involved in this process. please fill out the form, fold, tape, and mail. Your name will remain on our mailing list.***

---

Yes, I am interested in the following:

- ☐ Birds of Prey National Conservation Area
  - ☐ Bruneau Planning Area
  - ☐ Both
  - ☐ Neither, remove my name from your mailing list.
- 

My main area(s) of interest are (you may check more than one)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> grazing                   | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation (includes WSA and rivers) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OHV/transportation issues | <input type="checkbox"/> special status plants/animals        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cultural resources        | <input type="checkbox"/> riparian and wetland habitats        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fire                      | <input type="checkbox"/> socio-economic impacts               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife habitat          | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____         |

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

---

Preferred Method of Notification:

- ☐ Regular Mail      ☐ E-Mail      ☐ Web-Updates